

Board of Directors

Frank Morabito, *President*
Jerry Benson, *Vice-President*
Carl Jackson, *Treasurer*
Terry Oden, *Secretary*
Nicki Hinch, *Newsletter Editor*
Teri McGriff, *Membership*

Antonio Castro
Kim Chapman
John Crabbe
Beverly Feldman
Christie Fish
Stan Jaffe
Mark Parish

Winter 2007-2008



Bemused in the Basement

I sometimes think that I must have been born with a library card in my pocket. The card wasn't just, it seems now, these many years later, a means to get books out of the library, but a ticket to get *into* the library itself. I'd like to share with you a brief description of the library of my early years:

The Smiley library (located in Redlands, CA) was opened in 1898. Entering through the front doors, the visitor is immediately transported a century backward in time; this part of the library is also part of an America which doesn't exist anymore - most of this sort of architecture is long gone and it is too bad for all of us. This beautiful little library is part of the world wherein the librarian was the keeper of a temple, and of course, temples are not to be defiled by vulgar noise. As you walk about the Smiley, you will notice - or not notice - that the patrons are still; conversation is almost nil, even among the patrons of the children's room. This is not because anybody is rushing around, finger to lips, but because the atmosphere seems too elevated to ruin with mere conversation. A stroll through the Smiley is like a tour of a cloister, albeit one with some rather comfortable appointments. The place gives the impression of a very finely furnished country home; witness the curved staircase with its carved banister in the computer room, or rest yourself in one of the padded wicker chairs for a look at a magazine; this might be Roosevelt's Springwood in Hyde Park on a summer afternoon. The sunlight filters through the Venetian blinds and the patrons, who seem more like guests, take their ease in a scene that might have been painted by Sargent. There is a classical statuary worthy of a museum, and tiny, cozy hardwood nooks, each with its own fire grate to warm the feet of nineteenth-century readers. The Smiley has a reading room of the old style, long, graceful timber arches overhead. One almost expects to hear vespers, but there is no sound but my own soft footfalls. The children's library is a miniature of the main room; built in 1920, it is almost heartbreakingly charming, with its own stained-glass windows, each a tiny treasure: there is John Tenniel's Alice and the Cheshire Cat and Mock Turtle; Frank Baum's Dorothy, Toto, her famous trio of fellow travelers and even the flying monkey, all aglow from the afternoon sun (Michael McGroarty, <http://www.akspl.org/general.html>)

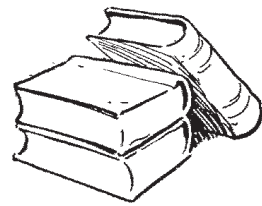
It was the early experience of that place, and the books, oh, the books too, that led me in my later years to be a Friend of the Santa Rosa Libraries. And so, to be for a brief time, your Editor. In my brief stint at the helm, I've tried, in my own way, to make this newsletter reflect the stained-glass-windowed temple of a library of my youth, of my memory and imagination (thought perhaps a little more noisy). I'm not going away, but you do have a new Editor. Nicki has served on the Friends board for a couple of years and will, I hope, put her own stamp on *Braddocks*. Give her a warm welcome.

*Terry Oden
Friends Board Member*

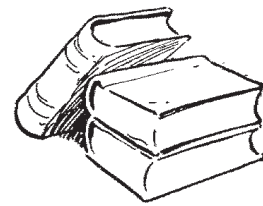
SPRING BOOK FAIRE
April 18 -21, 2008
Mark your calendar!

Friends of the Santa Rosa Libraries
P.O. Box 1153
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-1153

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Santa Rosa, CA
PERMIT NO. 475



Library News



Great Things to Report!

The Local History and Genealogy Library received a \$25,000 grant from the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. With this grant money we are:

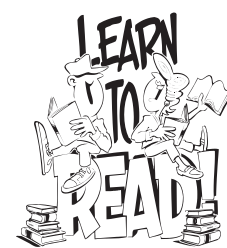
- having reprints made of nearly 300 historic photos
- preparing a brochure for the Petaluma History
- cataloging and digitizing 1,000 photographs
- assuring that Petaluma's 3,500 photos are viewable on the Library's online catalog

Thanks to Frances Kimball we received a \$1,000 grant from the Pfizer Foundation Volunteer Program. The grant will be used for various photo restoration and preservation projects that would not be completed otherwise. Thank you Frances.

We have a new microfilm reader that allows customers to download images directly to a memory stick. Once we have a wireless connection, customers can email images to themselves and others.

Meanwhile, thanks to the Friends we continue to sell copies of the 1897 Santa Rosa Bird's Eye Map and the Santa Rosa Railroad Square post cards.

*Katherine J. Rinehart, Library Associate
History and Genealogy Annex*



All You Need Are Friends!

The Sonoma County Library Adult Literacy Program holds an orientation the second Wednesday of every month, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at the Central Library. We are seeking volunteers to work one-to-one with an adult learner, for two hours each week, over a six-month period. Training and workbooks are provided. Currently, we have over twenty students waiting to be matched.

If you have two hours a week to spend at your local library and are interested in increasing the literacy skills of a motivated student in your community, call us at the library at 544-2622. Or visit www.sonomalibrary.org/literacy for details.

*Julie Dabbs
Adult Literacy Program*

What's New at Central

Generous gifts from the Friends continue to help both Adult and Children's librarians with their programming and collection buying. Recent highlights include the crowd pleasing Scottish Fiddlers and the Mexican writer Elena Poniotowska, as well as many monthly storytime programs. A "Read to Your Dog" program brought in five fabulous dogs and their trainers to Central to listen to children read from library books. Beautiful artwork done by participants in the Friends-sponsored Summer Reading program now brighten walls of the Boys and Girls Room at Central.

Librarians would like to give special thanks to Friends for their help in selling raffle tickets for three gift baskets full of childrens books during the Friends Fall Book Faire; and for alerting librarians whenever some wonderful donation comes in that could be put to use in the collection.

Stay tuned for some exciting programs coming during Winter and Spring including an engaging birthday celebration for the eccentric Sherlock Holmes on February 6, and a possible visit by the San Francisco Beat Poets in Spring. An Earth Day event in April and the introduction of a new book forum in the New Year are also being planned.

*Linda Burton White
Central Branch Manager*

A New Career for Jim Rosaschi

After 25 years with the Sonoma County Libraries Jim Rosaschi is moving on to a new career as the "granddaddy day-care" for his two grandchildren. We at Friends wish him much happiness with his new endeavors.

In Memoriam

Jody Orlick started working for the Sonoma County Library as a children's librarian, later as a reference librarian, and as Santa Rosa Central Branch manager. She was diagnosed with cancer in 2006 and died September 13, 2007. We remember her as always willing and eager to help new volunteers learn the ropes and will miss her as a True Friend. Family and friends have donated some \$2,500.00 to the Friends in her name.

Become a Friends Volunteer...

Many opportunities are available, please join us!

We have a regular group who volunteer every Tuesday at the Central Library. Jobs vary and include:

- ◆ sorting book donations
- ◆ boxing shelved books
- ◆ breaking down and recycling unneeded boxes
- ◆ make-up boxes for books
- ◆ pick-up donations

We need many volunteers to make our semi-annual Book Faires happen. You can be a part of it! Here are some of the jobs:

- ◆ set up for the Book Faire
- ◆ cashier
- ◆ keep books organized during the Book Faire
- ◆ break down empty boxes
- ◆ carry-out for customers

We train, and *it's fun!* Please call us at 545-0831, ext 541. (Call on Tuesdays between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm to talk with a Friends volunteer. Other days, leave a message and we will call you back.)

You've Got Mail

Get our Newsletter online instead by snail mail, and help save paper too. Check the box on the membership form below or send an email to us at: srfriends.sonoma.lib.ca.us and say you'd like to get our Newsletter online. We'll send you an email when it's ready to read online!

A Special Thank You

...to Linda Burton White of the Central Branch and Ginny Gustin of the Northwest Branch for providing good things to eat for the Friends volunteers while we were setting up the Fall Book Faire.

...and to the many volunteers who come especially to help set up and work at our Book Faires; their efforts help make our Faires successful!

An Adventurous Read

At the most recent Book Faire I was fortunate to find a copy of Jim Krakauer's *Into Thin Air*. This is the story of Krakauer's attempt to climb Mt. Everest and the events that occurred before, during and after the climb. The writing is both descriptive and exciting. The climb up Everest had me on the edge of my futon. Krakauer not only does a fine job of describing the harsh environment he encounters, but also shares a brief glimpse of life as a Nepalese Sherpa. The book is a bittersweet mix of success and failure in the pursuit to reach the highest point on earth. This is a great book to read during one of Sonoma County's heat waves as several of the climbers suffer the ill effects of extreme cold; maybe it will help you keep cool next summer.

*Stan Jaffe
Friends Board Member*

(The Library has 16 copies of this book, one large print book and 3 audiobooks.)

Time to join Friends! Or renew your membership today!

(Membership dues have changed as of January 1, 2008.)

MEMBERSHIP DUES		<input type="checkbox"/> NEW	<input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL
Name _____	Annual Membership		
Mailing Address _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual.....	\$5.00	
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Family.....	\$10.00	
Phone # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron.....	\$25.00	
e-mail address _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Business.....	\$50.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to get the newsletter online.		Lifetime membership	
Mail to: Friends of the Santa Rosa Libraries		<input type="checkbox"/> Life.....	\$100.00
P.O. Box 1153		<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor.....	\$500.00
Santa Rosa, CA 95402			